



Advanced Higher  
Course  
Specification



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# Advanced Higher Gàidhlig Course Specification (C732 77)

**Valid from August 2015**

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Please refer to the note of changes at the end of this Course Specification for details of changes from previous version (where applicable).

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## Course outline

**Course title:** Advanced Higher Gàidhlig

**SCQF:** level 7 (32 SCQF credit points)

**Course code:** C732 77

### Mandatory Units

**Gàidhlig: Translating and Interpreting Skills  
(Advanced Higher) 8 SCQF credit points**

**Gàidhlig: Writing and Literary Criticism Skills  
(Advanced Higher) 8 SCQF credit points**

**Gàidhlig: Specialist Study of Language and/or Culture  
(Advanced Higher) 8 SCQF credit points**

**Course assessment 8 SCQF credit points**

This Course includes eight SCQF credit points to allow additional time for preparation for Course assessment. The Course assessment covers the added value of the Course. Further information on the Course assessment is provided in the Assessment section.

### Recommended entry

Entry to this Course is at the discretion of the centre. However, learners would normally be expected to have attained the skills, knowledge and understanding required by the following or equivalent qualifications and/or experience:

- ◆ Higher Gàidhlig Course

### Core Skills

Achievement of this Course gives automatic certification of the following:

- ◆ Complete Core Skill: Oral Communication at SCQF level 6
- ◆ Complete Core Skill: Written Communication at SCQF level 6

### Progression

This Course or its Units may provide progression to:

- ◆ higher education, including degree-level subject study of Gaelic and related subject studies such as literature, education and journalism
- ◆ further education, including courses in media and journalism
- ◆ National Certificates
- ◆ employment in careers that require high levels of communication and thinking skills

Further details are provided in the Rationale section.

## **Equality and inclusion**

This Course Specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence. For further information, please refer to the *Course Support Notes*.

## **Rationale**

All new and revised National Courses reflect Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles. They offer flexibility, provide more time for learning, more focus on skills and applying learning, and scope for personalisation and choice.

In this Course, and its Component Units, there will be an emphasis on skills development and the application of those skills. Assessment approaches will be proportionate, fit for purpose and will promote best practice, enabling learners to achieve the highest standards they can.

This Course provides learners with opportunities to continue to acquire and develop the attributes and capabilities of the four capacities, as well as skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work.

All Courses provide opportunities for learners to develop breadth, challenge and application, but the focus and balance of the assessment will be appropriate for the subject area.

## **Relationship between the Course and Curriculum for Excellence values, purposes and principles**

Language and literacy are of personal, social and economic importance. Learners' ability to use language lies at the centre of the development and expression of their emotions, thinking, learning, and sense of personal identity.

Advanced Higher Gàidhlig fosters an appreciation of language awareness, and of a wide range of literature and texts. This enables learners to access their own cultural heritage and history, as well as the culture and history of others.

Advanced Higher Gàidhlig enables learners to understand and use complex vocabulary, word patterns, text structures and authentic, idiomatic style. Learners recognise, analyse and use language for a range of purposes.

## **Purpose and aims of the Course**

The main purpose of Advanced Higher Gàidhlig is to provide learners with the opportunity to develop and apply at an advanced level the language skills of translation and interpretation through an in-depth study of Gaelic language and literature. Learners will demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding through the production of a Specialist Study.

As learners develop sophisticated literacy skills, they will be able to process information easily, apply a sound knowledge of language in a range of practical and relevant contexts, study an array of texts and gain confidence to undertake new and challenging tasks in a variety of situations.

Advanced Higher Gàidhlig offers learners opportunities to develop and extend a wide range of skills including communication, independent learning, critical literacy, personal, interpersonal and team working, and creative thinking. Learners will gain a deeper understanding of the complexities and impact of language using high levels of analytical thinking.

In particular, Advanced Higher Gàidhlig aims to enable learners to:

- ◆ develop the ability to express and communicate meaning at a high level of sophistication
- ◆ develop the ability to communicate in writing at a high level of sophistication with respect to audience, context and purpose
- ◆ deepen awareness of language and how it works, taking account of style, grammar, structure and idiom, and local or regional influences on language
- ◆ develop the ability to analyse and evaluate texts from different genres
- ◆ develop awareness of translating from written English to written Gaelic and interpreting from spoken Gaelic to spoken or written English
- ◆ interact with an individual or group on Gaelic-related issues and engage in individual and group study of topics of a historical or cultural nature
- ◆ apply higher-order thinking
- ◆ develop advanced critical literacy
- ◆ learn independently
- ◆ plan and research, integrating and applying language skills, for a range of purposes including independent study

### **Information about typical learners who might do the Course**

Advanced Higher Gàidhlig provides flexibility, personalisation and choice, to enable learners to achieve in different ways and at a different pace. Advanced Higher Gàidhlig is suitable for Gaelic fluent speakers and learners who have experienced Gaelic medium education.

Advanced Higher Gàidhlig provides opportunities for learners to build on prior learning experienced in a broad general education or in Gaelic qualifications at a lower SCQF level.

Progression from Advanced Higher Gàidhlig includes opportunities for progression to:

- ◆ higher education, including degree-level subject study of Gaelic and related subject studies such as literature, education and journalism
- ◆ further education, including courses in media and journalism

# Course structure and conditions of award

## Course structure

The Course provides learners with the opportunity to develop their listening and talking, reading and writing skills in order to understand and use language to express and understand complex ideas with a sophisticated level of language.

Units are statements of standards for assessment and not programmes of learning and teaching. They can be delivered in a number of ways.

### **Gàidhlig: Translating and Interpreting Skills (Advanced Higher)**

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with opportunities to develop skills in translating from written English to written Gaelic and skills in interpreting from spoken Gaelic to spoken or written English.

### **Gàidhlig: Writing and Literary Criticism Skills (Advanced Higher)**

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with opportunities to develop skills to produce complex and sophisticated writing in Gaelic and to evaluate previously seen complex and sophisticated literary texts.

### **Gàidhlig: Specialist Study of Language and Culture (Advanced Higher)**

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with opportunities to develop analysis and evaluation skills by carrying out an individual study linked to an aspect of Gaelic literature and/or language and/or culture.

## Conditions of award

To gain the award of the Course, the learner must pass all of the Units as well as the Course assessment. The required Units are shown in the Course outline section. Course assessment will provide the basis for grading attainment in the Course award.

## Skills, knowledge and understanding

Further information on the assessment of skills, knowledge and understanding for the Course is given in the *Course Assessment Specification*. A broad overview of the mandatory subject skills, knowledge and understanding that will be assessed in the Course is given in this section.

This covers:

- ◆ listening, talking, reading and writing skills, as appropriate to purpose and audience in a wide range of contexts
- ◆ skills in understanding, analysing and evaluating a wide range of complex and sophisticated literary texts, as appropriate to purpose and audience
- ◆ skills in creating and producing a wide range of complex and sophisticated texts, as appropriate to a range of purposes and audiences
- ◆ translating skills from English to Gaelic, and from Gaelic to English
- ◆ developing knowledge of Gaelic language, literature and culture

Skills, knowledge and understanding to be included in the Course will be appropriate to the SCQF level of the Course. The SCQF level descriptors give further information on characteristics and expected performance at each SCQF level ([www.sqa.org.uk/scqf](http://www.sqa.org.uk/scqf)).

## Assessment

Information about assessment for the Course is included in the *Course Assessment Specification*, which provides full details including advice on how a learner's overall attainment for the Course will be determined.

### Unit assessment

All Units are internally assessed against the requirements shown in the *Unit Specification*.

They can be assessed on a Unit-by-Unit basis or by combined assessment.

They will be assessed on a pass/fail basis within centres. SQA will provide rigorous external quality assurance, including external verification, to ensure assessment judgements are consistent and meet national standards.

The assessment of the Units in this Course will be as follows.

#### **Gàidhlig: Translating and Interpreting Skills (Advanced Higher)**

The purpose of this Unit is to provide learners with opportunities to develop skills in translating from written English to written Gaelic and skill in interpreting from spoken Gaelic to spoken or written English.

#### **Gàidhlig: Writing and Literary Criticism Skills (Advanced Higher)**

Learners will provide evidence of their skills in writing in Gaelic, using knowledge and understanding of complex and sophisticated Gaelic language. Learners will also provide evidence of their analysis and evaluation skills of complex and sophisticated literary texts.

#### **Gàidhlig: Specialist Study of Language and Culture (Advanced Higher)**

Learners will provide evidence of their skills in planning and researching an aspect of Gaelic literature and/or language and/or culture.

Exemplification of possible assessment approaches for these Units is provided in the *National Assessment Resource*.



## Course assessment

Courses from National 4 to Advanced Higher include assessment of added value. At National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher, the added value will be assessed in the Course assessment. The added value for the Course must address the key purposes and aims of the Course as defined in the Course Rationale. It will do this by addressing one or more of breadth, challenge or application.

In the Advanced Higher Gàidhlig Course, added value will focus on:

- ◆ Challenge
- ◆ Application

The learner will provide evidence of reading, writing, listening and talking skills, and their ability to understand and use Gaelic. The Course assessment will take the form of a [performance](#) through which learners will demonstrate their talking skills, and two [question papers](#)<sup>1</sup> through which learners will demonstrate their reading, writing, and translation skills and knowledge of literature.

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<sup>1</sup> See link above for definitions.

## **Development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work**

It is expected that learners will develop broad, generic skills through this Course. The skills that learners will be expected to improve on and develop through the Course are based on SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work* and drawn from the main skills areas listed below. These must be built into the Course where there are appropriate opportunities.

### **1 Literacy**

- 1.1 Reading
- 1.2 Writing
- 1.3 Listening and talking

### **5 Thinking skills**

- 5.3 Applying
- 5.4 Analysing and evaluating
- 5.5 Creating

Amplification of these skills is given in SQA's *Skills Framework: Skills for Learning, Skills for Life and Skills for Work*. The level of these skills will be appropriate to the level of the Course. Further information on building in skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work for the Course is given in the *Course Support Notes*.

# Administrative information

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Published: April 2015 (version 2.0)

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## History of changes

| Course details | Version | Description of change   | Authorised by                     | Date       |
|----------------|---------|---|-----------------------------------|------------|
|                | 2.0     | Unit title revised throughout to 'Translating and Interpreting Skills'.<br>Greater clarity in reference to <i>Translating and Interpreting Skills</i> Unit, explaining when it requires written and when it requires spoken language.<br>Greater clarity in reference to the <i>Specialist Study</i> Unit, more clearly demonstrating the three options for the focus of the study.<br>'Complex' replaced with 'complex and sophisticated' throughout, to match SCQF 7 terminology in other subjects.<br>'Breadth' replaced by 'application' in Course Assessment section to match the CAS. | Qualification Development Manager | April 2015 |
|                |         |   |                                   |            |
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